

Date: Fri, 21 Oct 94 00:58:39 PDT  
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>  
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu  
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu  
Precedence: List  
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V94 #1138  
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest                      Fri, 21 Oct 94                      Volume 94 : Issue 1138

Today's Topics:

22 OCT - Durham NC - NRE Commercial Radio Op Exam  
824-851 MHz??  
ARRL to change "Silent Keys" label in QST? (2 msgs)  
Callsigns.  
Code Programs/Sound Blasters  
Commercial test pool?  
CW Learning: Going slow. :(  
Earth Ground (was: ARRL And Gay Hams S  
Earth Ground (was: ARRL And Gay Hams Settle Complaint)  
Give me your Definition of Ham Radio!!!  
Intl call sign servers/CDs  
List radio publications FREE on the Web  
opinion:Icom IC-W21A  
Who to complain to?  
Yaesu 757 + GXII ? (2 msgs)

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>  
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>  
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available  
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text  
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official  
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

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Date: 20 Oct 1994 20:40:19 GMT  
From: ab4el@cybernetics.net (Stephen Modena)  
Subject: 22 OCT - Durham NC - NRE Commercial Radio Op Exam

Commercial Radio Operator License Examinations:

Durham, NC - - 22 October 94 - - 9:30 a.m.  
SW Branch of Durham Public Library: 3605 Shannon Road

Steve Modena AB4EL (919) 787-7618  
or Terry Murphy AB4VJ (919) 494-2088

How To Get There:

Talk-in: we will listen for this Durham repeater: 144.85/145.45

These instructions work if you approach South Square Mall  
via 15-501 BYPASS.

You are in the vicinity of South Square when you can see the  
lone skyscraper with the "needle" tower.

Whether you are coming from I-40, headed north on 15-501 BYPASS...  
or coming from I-85, headed south on 15-501 BYPASS, there will be  
a sign indicating "Keep Left for 15-501 BUSINESS -- South Square."

Exiting from either direction of 15-501 BYPASS leads to the same spot.

Passing under an overpass, there is a traffic light at a cross road  
named "Westgate"...and the Lone Star restaurant is ahead at 2 o'clock.

Go straight ahead.

Midway to the next traffic light, there is a sign: "Next right to  
Auto Drive." At the light, there is a big Circuit City store is on  
the left...and the only turn possible is to the right, onto Shannon Road.

Turn right at this light.

The first traffic light on Shannon Rd. is at Auto Drive and  
you are in the midst of South Square mall: continue straight ahead.

The next traffic light on Shannon Rd. is the 3900 block of  
University Drive: go straight ahead.

After passing the Shannon Manor apartment complex, the next intersection  
has a stop sign and is called "MLK Jr.": go straight ahead.

Heading up a small hill and reaching the crest just before the curve,  
you are looking straight at the Durham Library--Southwest Branch...  
a brick building set on the left side of and below the level of the road.

The exam site address is 3605 Shannon Road.

The exam room is visible through a very large window to the right of  
the building entrance. Commercial Radio Operator License Examinations

Durham, NC - - 22 October 94 - - 9:30 a.m.  
SW Branch of Durham Public Library: 3605 Shannon Road

Walk-ins are welcome, but seating is limited.  
For more info or to reserve an exam seat, contact:  
Steve Modena (919) 787-7618  
or Terry Murphy (919) 494-2088

#### Licenses Attainable:

Marine Radio Operator Permit - - Element 1  
General Radiotelephone Operator - - Elements 1 & 3  
GMDSS Radio Maintainer - - Elements 1, 3 & 9  
GMDSS Radio Operator - - Elements 1 & 7  
Ship Radar Endorsement - - Element 8  
3rd Class Radiotelegraph Operator's Certificate--Elements 1, 5, T1 & T2  
2nd Class Radiotelegraph Operator's Certificate--Elements 1, 5, 6, T1 & T2  
1st Class Radiotelegraph Operator's Certificate--Elements 1, 5, 6, T3 & T4

Who is offering it: W5YI-affiliated NATIONAL RADIO EXAMINERS in N.C.

What will be offered: Examinations on elements 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.  
Contact us before hand about Code Elements--credit for elements T1 & T2  
is granted to Amateur Extra Class License holders who passed their  
20 WPM test.

#### What to bring:

Two forms of positive personal ID  
Your extended ZIP code: xxxxx-XXXX  
CASH for the examination fee  
Personal check or credit card for FCC fees (if any)  
Hand calculator (optional)  
Code credit via Extra Class License requires showing original license  
and a copy of it  
Radiotelegraph license application requires two (2) photos--call us  
about requirements  
Good preparation and a relaxed mind

WARNING: Anything that even resembles cheating or an attempt to cheat  
will be reported \*directly\* to the FCC, as per regulations

#### How We Operate:

1. Any or all of the currently offered written elements available may be taken.
2. Elements may be taken in any order

3. The amount of time allowed for the examination session will be reasonable, but not unlimited.
4. We reserve the unequivocal right to limit seating:  
first come, first served!
5. If you fail an element, there will no opportunity to retry that element during the same session.
6. Each element passed successfully will be recorded on a Proof-of-Passing Certificate.
7. If you qualify for a license, you may prepare an FCC Form 756, or defer until a later time.
8. We will file the license application for you, or you may opt to file for yourself.
9. We recognise Proof-of-Passing Certificates from other W5YI groups and from other authorized testing organizations. However, we will file for a license on your behalf only if at least one of your needed PPCs was obtained during the current examination session.
10. Fees charged for the examinations themselves, payable in cash, follow this NRE rule:

"At this time, NRE requires a fixed \$35 fee from each candidate for the administration of any and all examination elements required for each commercial license per sitting. If any elements are failed, no license which required the failed element would be issued and the applicant would have to schedule another exam session and pay another fee to obtain the desired license."

11. Certain licenses are subject to a FCC Regulatory Fee:

Marine Radio Operator Permit: \$35.00 (5 year term)  
General Radio Operator License: no fee (lifetime)  
GMDSS Operator (alone): \$35.00 (5 year term)  
GMDSS Mainainer (alone): \$35.00 (5 year term)  
GMDSS Operator/Maintainer (issued as combo): \$35.00 (5 year term)  
Ship Radar Endorsement: no fee (5 year term)  
3rd Class Radiotelegraph: \$35.00 (5 year term)  
2nd Class Radiotelegraph: \$35.00 (5 year term)  
1st Class Radiotelegraph: \$35.00 (5 year term)

12. There are two options for paying any required FCC Regulatory Fee:
  - a. Personal or bank check or money order, payable to the "Federal Communications Commission"
  - b. Completion of a FCC Remittance Advice-FCC Form 159 for payment by credit card.
13. We are absolutely obligated to be certain that you are who you say you are--and not a "ringer" standing in for you. Make sure that the identification that you present will pass muster--otherwise you will not be allowed to sit for an examination. If you have any doubt about what will be a suitable combination of ID documents, feel free to telephone us and discuss it.

\* \* Latest Status on Radiotelegraph Code Examination \* \*

As per telephone conversation with NRE-W5YI on Friday 07 October 1994, the software for generating the required format and content style is not ready. The FCC is yet to issue the guidelines...the messages (presumably the clear text exams) are to be similar to messages encountered in the service. If the timeliness of taking a code examination is of critical interest to you, call and alert us of your need so that we can contact you about any change in this situation.

--

de Steve Modena      NRE Test Center Manager   ab4el@Cybernetics.NET

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Date: 21 Oct 1994 02:26:20 GMT  
From: dbarton@emoryu1.cc.emory.edu ( )  
Subject: 824-851 MHz??

Just out of curiosity, what is located in the 824-851 MHz range? I notice that most scanners do not cover this range. My guess is TV, but I am willing to be proved wrong. Thanks in advance...

Doug

--

"No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms. The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government."  
- Thomas Jefferson

"Sometimes, I guess, there just aren't enough rocks."  
- Forrest Gump

-----

Date: Thu, 20 Oct 1994 20:09:00 +0000  
From: Mike@g4kfk.demon.co.uk (Mike Gathergood)  
Subject: ARRL to change "Silent Keys" label in QST?

Hi Michael,

> Clearly, we need some "Truth in Advertising". These hams can't be  
> silent "keys", because most of them were probably too lazy to touch  
> a key (or even know what a key is, for that matter...).

What a terribly insensitive attitude. Never speak ill of the dead.

> -- Ted Kennedy has killed more people with his car  
> -- than I have with my gun.

Did you see his new bumper sticker?: 'My other car is underwater'

73

Mike

G4KFK - 25wpm on a good day!

\*\*\*\*\*  
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\*\*\*\*\*

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Date: Thu, 20 Oct 94 23:09:10 -0500  
From: Leland Van Koten <leevankoten@delphi.com>  
Subject: ARRL to change "Silent Keys" label in QST?

Michael P. Deignan <md@pstc3.pstc.brown.edu> writes:

>Therefore, I think its incumbent upon the ARRL to split the "Silent  
>Keys" column into two sections: a "Silent Keys", for real hams that  
>know what a key really is, and a "Silent PTTs" section, for the 2 meter  
>good-buddy box users.

Do you include among the "real hams" the 2 guys with calls indicating they have been around since before anybody even THOUGHT of "no-code technicians" who deliberately tuned up on top of me and then started their QSO on their "private" frequency when I had a good run going on 75 meters during the recent Pa. QSO Although I was only using 100 watts, I know they heard me, since they were commenting about "Is there a contest going on? Yeah, there seems to be a lot of QRM -- I had to turn my amp. all the way up to get rid of it" -- or words to that effect. I also know that I put a pretty good

signal into their area with my 100 watts.

The irony is that if they had politely asked me to move, I would have done it since while I like participating in contests, I'm far from serious about it and will always take time out for a ragchew, getting out of the way of a net, you name it. I'm not criticizing people who don't, but it never even occurred to these idiots to even ask -- much less to look for another frequency (and there were others around).

There are lids among the no-code techs., but they sure don't have a monopoly on them. In fact, given what I hear on the air and the numbers of people with the various license classes, I wonder if there may not be more lids per capita among Extras than any other class. I doubt it, but it wouldn't shock me if it were true.

Lee, KE3FB in Md.

-----  
Date: Thu, 20 Oct 1994 06:02:26 GMT  
From: linley@netcom.com (Bruce James Robert Linley)  
Subject: Callsigns.

Even the number in the callsign is becoming meaningless. Here in CA I know a couple of N2XXX and KB4XXX hams. Soon, I'll be moving to 7-land (NV or AZ), but I don't want to give up my callsign.

--  
Bruce James Robert Linley ==-==--==--==--==--==--== Amateur Radio: KE6EQZ  
linley@netcom.com <--- Left Brain ==-==--== Right Brain ---> linley1@aol.com

-----  
Date: 20 Oct 1994 15:39:11 -0400  
From: ke2ag@aol.com (KE2AG)  
Subject: Code Programs/Sound Blasters

In article <199410200859.BAA04216@ucsd.edu>,  
t.wright@msuacad.morehead-st.EDU (Tim Wright KD40VM) writes:

Look for "SBPMORSE.ZIP" at just about any FTP site that has ham radio in it.  
I got my copy from America On Line.

KE2AG - "dave"

-----

Date: 20 Oct 1994 22:33:53 GMT  
From: Ken.Tiernan@lambada.oit.unc.edu (Kenneth R. Tiernan)  
Subject: Commercial test pool?

Are there any ftp sites that have the commercial radio test pools or study guides?

KEN N5PKA

--

Launchpad is an experimental internet BBS. The views of its users do not necessarily represent those of UNC-Chapel Hill, OIT, or the SysOps.

-----  
Date: Thu, 20 Oct 94 21:53:25 -0500  
From: Leland Van Koten <leevankoten@delphi.com>  
Subject: CW Learning: Going slow. :(

Steven M. Palm <smp@agape.sol.net> writes:

>MY PROBLEM: I can't receive worth the darn. :( Actually, I just have  
>a real hard time hearing the sound and connecting in my brain to the  
>actual character, yet sending goes like a snap.  
>  
>Is this a common "hurdle" to overcome, or am I just odd. :) (Thankfully  
>no one here knows me well enough to add much to that one... :) I am  
>using the SuperMorse program (EXCELLENT!) to learn, and am wondering  
>if the code tapes may have been a better route, and this is a side-  
>effect of my choice in learning.

Steven -- I learned with tapes, and used SuperMorse to practice after I had the basics down pretty pat, but you can certainly do it the opposite way -- whatever works for you!

One nice thing about tapes is you can use them where you can't use SuperMorse, such as in the car on a commute.

One thing that worked for me, and that I know has worked for some other people is sounding out the code for EVERYTHING you see -- out loud if you're by yourself or with someone who understands such lunacy, in your head if you're where someone might think you've totally flipped out. This is really practicing sending more than receiving, so it's no substitute for the tapes, but it gets you "thinking in CW" for as many hours per day as possible, which can really speed the process up.

I did this with street signs, names of objects, you name it. License plates



are especially good if you're in a state where they use combinations of several letters and numbers rather than mostly numbers, since they tend to use the rare letters that aren't used that much. And I really did it with EVERYTHING when I wasn't in a situation where it was imperative that I concentrate on something else. I'd see a tree: "Dah Di-dah-dit Dit Dit;" a Chevy: "Dah-di-dah-dit Di-di-di-dit Dit Di-di-di-dah Dah-di-dah-dah."

It may not work for everybody, but it did for me.

The other big piece of advice is to try to join class where you're exchanging feedback with other people. Everybody hits plateaus where they don't feel they're making any progress. I tried to learn CW a couple of times several years before I finally did it, and thought I "couldn't learn CW" when I hit a plateau where it felt that I wasn't making progress and might even be regressing.

What I didn't know until I took a class is that this happens to everyone, and the periods that you learn the fastest seem to follow immediately upon these periods where you're not picking up anything. It's almost like when a computer says "working" or some such -- like your brain CAN'T learn any more until it process what you've already learned. Some people say to stop when you hit one of these periods so you don't become discouraged. My personal reaction is that doing that makes it too easy to quit altogether -- just know that what's happening is entirely normal.

Good luck and congrats on the decision to upgrade.

73 de Lee, KE3FB in Md.

-----  
Date: Thu, 20 Oct 1994 20:14:18 +0000  
From: Mike@g4kfk.demon.co.uk (Mike Gathergood)  
Subject: Earth Ground (was: ARRL And Gay Hams S

Hi Bob,

> The thread of this discussion is a social issue and is away from the topics  
> of amateur radio. How about moving this discussion to another news group?  
>  
> Thank you, in advance,  
>  
> Bob  
> KE6GTI

Precisely - so why do LARC feel they have the right (or the need) to bring our hobby into disrepute in order that a few of their members can come out of their sordid closets. It is LARC that is off topic!

73  
Mike  
G4KFK

Straight - and proud!

\*\*\*\*\*  
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\*\*\*\*\*

-----  
Date: 20 Oct 1994 13:57:50 -0500  
From: dave@flowserver.stem.com (David Adams)  
Subject: Earth Ground (was: ARRL And Gay Hams Settle Complaint)

Please take the gay/anti-gay crap elsewhere. This is a RADIO  
newsgroup.

73 de dave  
-----

Date: Fri, 21 Oct 94 00:37:35 GMT  
From: kevin@sparc.SanDiegoCA.ncr.com (Kevin Sanders)  
Subject: Give me your Definition of Ham Radio!!!

In article <4480DXDOCTXSMANQPU@mcube.com> unique@mcube.com writes:

>  
>In our household there are three lincensed hams myself kd6lbn and 2 yls  
>kd6lzo and kd6kpj. Our definition of hamradio is as follows.

>  
[ unreadable stuff deleted ]

Perhaps people aren't as helpful as you'd like because it's far too much  
effort for them to understand you. I apologize to the net if I'm talking  
to a robot or something...

--  
Kevin Sanders | Voice: (619) 485-3972  
AT&T Global Information Solutions | FAX: (619) 485-XXXX  
17095 Via Del Campo | Email: kevin@sparc.SanDiegoCA.ncr.com  
San Diego, CA 92127 |

Date: 20 Oct 1994 20:22:50 GMT  
From: smithson@ACM.ORG  
Subject: Intl call sign servers/CDs

I have a list of callsign servers and an Amsoft CDROM but they only have FCC/American calls. Does anyone know of a server or CD CD that has international calls as well?

73!

-Brian n8wrl

-----  
Date: Fri, 21 Oct 1994 04:47:59 GMT  
From: sapphire@world.std.com (Michael R Prolman)  
Subject: List radio publications FREE on the Web

You can list two nonprofit publications about radios for FREE in UNCAT, the catalog of uncataloged titles.

UNCAT has titles from businesses, nonprofit groups, trade associations, museums and self-published authors with research reports, pamphlets, brochures, catalogs, newsletters, booklets, books, videocassettes and audio cassettes.

You can explore UNCAT at this case-sensitive URL:

<http://www.sapphire.com/UNCAT/>

If you have any difficulty connecting, an alternate URL is:

<http://www.digimark.net/UNCAT/>

Check out the Hello Direct, Inc. catalog in the Products subject area to see the full scope of UNCAT.

If you are new to the Web, try typing:

Lynx <http://www.sapphire.com/UNCAT/>

or

Lynx <http://www.digimark.net/UNCAT/>

If you want detailed information about UNCAT, or have only

e-mail access to the Internet, send e-mail to:

info-UNCAT@Sapphire.com

\*\*\*\*\*

Michael R. Prolman  
President  
Sapphire Press

-----  
Date: Thu, 20 Oct 1994 21:20:51 GMT  
From: edmitch@microsoft.com (Ed Mitchell)  
Subject: opinion:Icom IC-W21A

Regarding the IC W21A versus other radios. A year ago I bought the W2A, the logical successor to ICOM's IC24AT dual band handheld. I am pleased with the W2A.

When shopping I considered the W21A. The "whisper" mode feature that enables you to use the radio more like a phone (held to your ear, with the microphone in the battery pack) looked very handy to me. In checking around, the only major complaint I heard was that the maximum audio level output was too low because of the very small speaker that was used. Some didn't like the microphone built-in to the battery packs since batteries do wear out after around 125-150 deep discharge/recharge cycles and the mic adds to the expense of the battery replacement. But overall, the reviews I read were generally positive of the W21.

I ended up buying the W2A because my wife has a IC24AT it helped having identical battery packs that we can swap. FYI the external mic connector on the 24AT and the W2A are NOT the same so you can't use the same external mics.

Ed Mitchell  
KF7VY  
edmitch@aol.com (personal)  
edmitch@microsoft.com (work)

-----  
Date: Thu, 20 Oct 94 22:12:36 -0500  
From: Leland Van Koten <leevankoten@delphi.com>  
Subject: Who to complain to?

Carl Draus <cdraus@ix.netcom.com> writes:

>Could anyone here tell me who I could call to have something done about my  
inconsiderate

>CB slob neighbor. He is constantly stomping on my TV reception, bleeding all over my phone,  
>and you can even hear the jerk on my clock radio when it's not even turned on. I've asked him  
>nicey a number of times to tone it down. He knows exactly what he is doing to my household and  
>apparently doesn't give a damn. He swears he is legal, but the last I was aware of, a CB should  
>not be able to reach from North Carolina to Barbados, Arkansas, or Mexico. Is there someone  
>out there that can do something about this for me?

Carl -- It's possible he is only operating with legal power, but I seriously doubt it. Technically, talking to Barbados, Arkansas and Mexico is illegal on CB, but those rules are rarely enforced (and, IMHO, shouldn't be if the operator is otherwise legal), and it is certainly POSSIBLE to talk those distances using 5 watts or less. It's also POSSIBLE to cause interference with properly adjusted equipment operating at legal CB power, but a lot of CBers cause problems by not paying much attention to their equipment except for seeing that it operates at the maximum possible (not maximum legal) power.

Look in the phone book to see whether there is a listing for the Federal Communications Commission. If there is, call and explain the problem. They don't have the staff to jump on this type of situation as rapidly as one that is affecting public safety, for example, but they DO enforce the rules when they are able to do so.

It's also possible, however, that he is operating at legal power and is only transmitting on the proper frequencies. A lot of electronic equipment these days is absolute junk as far as shielding from radio frequency interference. My next-door neighbor pointed out to me that when I operated on the 7 MHz band I was getting into one of his two stereo speakers even when it was off. I didn't think it was possible, but darned if he wasn't right! I checked my equipment, and it was all operating correctly, so the problem was obviously in his equipment. Fortunately, that's the only band that was a problem, I operate on it relatively infrequently, and we're good friends, so there's not a -- but it does demonstrate that these problems can occur even when the transmitter is operating properly and legally.

Lee, KE3FB in Md.

-----  
Date: 20 Oct 1994 20:37:47 GMT  
From: ham@wam.umd.edu (Scott Richard Rosenfeld)  
Subject: Yaesu 757 + GXII ?

>After looking at a 757GXII that was for sale, and looking at back issues of

>QST for review articles, can anyone tell me why the 757 was re-released as  
>the GXII? Was it to fix some kind of bug? Its production run didn't last  
>very long, did it?

>

>My coverage of QST is limited, only back to '86, and I wasn't able to find an  
>article on it in any of the end-of-year directories; the adverts don't  
>show many GXII's. Wasn't able to find a review of the 757, either.

OK, here we go. After having one of each to sell, here are the differences:

The '757 came out in 1984. Wildly popular, with very small size, general  
coverage receiver, AM/FM/SSB/CW and a 600-Hz filter standard, AND an iambic  
keyer standard! It could be controlled via computer and an interface box.

There were some complaints about it, though. The tuning rate was slow, and  
there was no "FAST" mode. It had IF shift and IF width, plus an infinite  
clarifier (RIT) and a Noise Blanker. But it was missing a notch filter.  
The mode didn't get stored in the memory as it was set via a mechanical  
switch.

The GX/II came about around 1989. Same "guts" as the 757GX, else they would  
have renamed it. There was now:

- 1) A "FAST" button, to achieve a faster tuning rate
- 2) A "MODE" button which cycled the radio through a series of LED's indicating  
the mode. The mode was now stored in memory along with the frequency.
- 3) A Notch Filter. Wow.

The scanning feature was somehow changed, although I don't remember the  
specifics. Well, that's about it. The case color was changed slightly,  
and the fluorescent display, once a purplish-blue (very pretty and  
colorful), was replaced with a gray-blue display (quite drab in comparison).

The radios have the same receiver and transmitter circuitry, save for your  
standard running changes. The interfaces and bells & whistles changed.

--

73,

```

----- The
      \ / Long Original
Scott Rosenfeld Amateur Radio NF3I Burtonsville, MD | Live $5.00
WAC-CW/SSB WAS DXCC - 130 QSLed on dipoles -----| Dipoles! Antenna!
```

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Date: 20 Oct 1994 14:07:35 -0500  
From: randster@bga.com (James R. Shields)  
Subject: Yaesu 757 + GXII ?

After looking at a 757GXII that was for sale, and looking at back issues of QST for review articles, can anyone tell me why the 757 was re-released as the GXII? Was it to fix some kind of bug? Its production run didn't last very long, did it?

It looks and acts like a great radio to have, as far as used equipment goes, but are there problems to be encountered down-the-road?

My coverage of QST is limited, only back to '86, and I wasn't able to find an article on it in any of the end-of-year directories; the adverts don't show many GXII's. Wasn't able to find a review of the 757, either.

Is this a good used radio to buy? Opinions/comments welcomed! Tnx. 73.

randster@bga.com

randy  
kj5vb

-----  
Date: Thu, 20 Oct 1994 20:15:27 +0000  
From: Mike@g4kfk.demon.co.uk (Mike Gathergood)

References<Cxt1FJ.Kpo@news.Hawaii.Edu> <782498115snz@g4kfk.demon.co.uk>,  
<3827bs\$aqq@eram.esi.com.au>  
Reply-To: Mike@g4kfk.demon.co.uk  
Subject: Re: Earth Ground (was: ARRL And Gay Hams Settle Complaint)

Hi Dave,

> | BTW, are there really as many as 2%? It's about time we brought back  
> | flogging!  
>  
> Better get those whips ready then. Looks like Amateurs are just as  
> intolerant as the rest of society; I was hoping for something better.

Glad I'm normal :-)

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\*\*\*\*\*

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Date: Thu, 20 Oct 94 22:34:42 -0500  
From: Leland Van Koten <leevankoten@delphi.com>

References<CxFrpD.Kr6@umassd.edu> <1994Oct10.075613.7018@hpcvaac.cv.hp.com>,  
<kevin.jessup.20.00937B25@mail.mei.com>  
Subject: Re: Cancer rate among hams. Was: WTB: Radar gun

Kevin Jessup <kevin.jessup@mail.mei.com> writes:

>>: NOW AS FAR AS CANCER GOES.... TALK TO ANY SEASONED HAM! even 73cm is  
>>: harmfull with handhelds! if 440Mhz causes cancer imagin what a flip  
>>: phone does at 820Mhz!  
>

>>All we have is rumor, and some very uncontrolled studies. I don't  
>>know of any Hams who have quit using handhelds because of a reputed  
>>cancer risk.

>  
>I agree with the "very uncontrolled studies" comment. I've often wondered  
>about the validity of ANY cancer studies on amateur radio operators.  
>

>What's our average age anyway? Older people usually DO have a higher  
>cancer rate compared to the average population.

I agree. In fact, given the number of guys I know in their 80's who are still active hams, it seems to me that an argument could be made that RF exposure PREVENTS cancer and other diseases of aging -- it's not a scientific sample, but I suspect it's as "scientific" as anything that supposedly "proves" the opposite proposition. I mean, how many males make it significantly past 80 in the general population?

>I've also noticed a sedentary lifestyle for the majority of the amateur  
>population around here. Much easier to "sit in the shack" (say that three  
>times real fast ;-) doing DX year after year rather than keeping the old  
>cardiovascular system in shape. If we DO get out of the shack, it's for  
>coffee and donuts! ;-) There is field day of course. That once-a-year  
>exercise. While I've only been invloved for about 2-years now, I've  
>experienced the decrease in physical activity myself.

Not only a sedentary lifestyle -- excess caloric intake is a PROVEN cause of cancer in virtually every animal species studied, and as I look around my radio club (including in the mirror) it seems to me that could be a confounding variable in any study of cancer in hams.

I can "prove" that, at least for people in Maryland, oyster consumption causes the skin to lighten, and crab consumption causes it to darken. (Oysters are



traditionally eaten in months beginning with "R" and crabs are largely eaten in the non-oyster months.) There's certainly no question that there's an extremely high correlation between the consumption of these two types of seafood and skin darkness, but I doubt that many people would think that there was a causal relationship! Yet there's about as much evidence of one as there is that the terrifying technological innovation of the moment causes cancer.

There should be some way to implant on the brain of every reporter who does one of these stories the statement: "CORRELATION DOES NOT PROVE CAUSATION."

Lee, KE3FB in Md.

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